UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/49/610/Add.4
16 December 1994
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

Forty-ninth session
Agenda item 100 (d)

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: COMPREHENSIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE VIENNA DECLARATION AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION

Report of the Third Committee (Part V)*

Rapporteur: Mr. Nicolai N. LEPESHKO (Belarus)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At is 3rd plenary meeting, on 23 September 1994, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its forty-ninth session the item entitled "Human rights questions: Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Committee considered the item at its 33rd, 38th to 48th, 53rd, 55th to 57th, 59th and 62nd-67th meetings, on 16 and 22 to 30 November and on 5 to 8, 10 and 12 to 14 December 1994. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/49/SR.38-48, 53, 55-57, 59 and 62-67).

3. For the documents before the Committee under this item, see document A/49/610.

4. At the 33rd meeting, on 16 November, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights made an introductory statement (see A/C.3/49/SR.33).

---

* The report of the Committee on agenda item 100 will be issued in six parts, under the symbol A/49/610 and Add.1-5.

94-50401 (E) 191294 201294

/...

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.36 and Rev.1

5. On 2 December, Ukraine submitted a draft resolution entitled "Increased coordination within the United Nations system in the field of human rights" (A/C.3/49/L.36).

6. At the 62nd meeting, on 10 December, the representative of Ukraine, on behalf of Poland and Ukraine, as well as Ireland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, joined subsequently by Denmark, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Norway, Spain and Sweden, introduced a revised draft resolution entitled "Increased coordination within the United Nations system in the field of human rights" (A/C.3/49/L.31/Rev.1), which contained the following changes:

(a) In the fifth preambular paragraph, the words "organs, bodies and specialized agencies" were replaced with the words "organs and bodies and the specialized agencies";

(b) In the sixth preambular paragraph, the word "specialized" was added before the word "agencies";

(c) The seventh preambular paragraph, which had read:

> "Taking note of the articles of the agreements with the specialized agencies providing for the transmission of reports to the United Nations,"

was revised to read:

> "Taking note of the provisions of the agreements between the United Nations and the specialized agencies governing the transmission of reports,";

(d) In the ninth preambular paragraph, the words "organs, bodies and" were replaced with the words "organs and bodies and", and the words "based on" were replaced with the words "on the basis of";

(e) In operative paragraph 1, the words "in accordance with his mandate, notably" were inserted before the words "as outlined";

(f) In the first line of operative paragraph 2, the words "of the Secretariat" were added after the words "Centre for Human Rights";

(g) In operative paragraph 2 (a), the word "Increase" was replaced with the words "To increase";

(h) In operative paragraph 2 (b), the words "Open a" were replaced with the words "To deepen its";

(i) Operative paragraph 3, which had read:

"3. Calls upon Member States to pursue a coordinated policy in order that full cooperation may be achieved between the United Nations and the specialized agencies in the field of human rights;"

was revised to read:

"3. Calls upon Member States to pursue coordinated policies in support of full cooperation between the United Nations and the specialized agencies in the field of human rights;"

(j) Operative paragraphs 4 and 5 were deleted and the subsequent paragraphs renumbered accordingly;

(k) Operative paragraph 6, which had read:

"6. Invites the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to request Governments, United Nations specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to express their views on the strengthening of the coordination within the United Nations system;"

was revised to read:

"5. Invites the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in accordance with his mandate and in consultation with Governments, specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to make recommendations on the strengthening of the coordination within the United Nations system;".

7. In introducing the revised draft resolution, the representative of Ukraine orally revised it as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 1, the words "to continue" should be added after the words "High Commissioner for Human Rights",

(b) In operative paragraph 6, the words "as a sub-item" should be deleted.

8. At its 67th meeting, on 14 December, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided, without a vote, to refer draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.36/Rev.1 to the Working Group of the Third Committee for further consideration (see A/C.3/49/SR.67) (see para. 15, draft decision I).

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.55

9. At the 62nd meeting, on 10 December, the representative of Austria, on behalf of Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Morocco,

the Netherlands, the Niger, Pakistan, Panama, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Samoa, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine and Venezuela, as well as Estonia, France, Georgia, Guatemala, Israel, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Malawi, Micronesia (Federated States of), Marshall Islands, Namibia, Norway, Peru, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Slovakia, joined subsequently by Argentina, Bhutan, Cape Verde, Croatia, the Czech Republic, El Salvador, Gabon, India, Mauritania, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Zambia, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action" (A/C.3/49/L.55).

10. At the 67th meeting, on 14 December, the representative of Austria orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) In the eleventh preambular paragraph, the words "in his system-wide coordination responsibilities" were replaced with the words "in the coordination of United Nations organs, bodies and the specialized agencies whose activities deal with human rights, as set out in General Assembly resolution 48/141";

(b) In operative paragraph 1, the words "with appreciation" were deleted;

(c) Operative paragraph 9 was replaced with the following:

"9. Requests the High Commissioner for Human Rights, as the United Nations official with principal responsibility for United Nations human rights activities, to submit, no later than 15 February 1995 for the preparation of the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, a report with a detailed plan on the human and financial resource requirements of the implementation of the recommendations of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action that have been endorsed by the competent United Nations organs or on which those competent have taken decisions".

11. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 14, draft resolution).

Human rights questions: Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

12. At its 67th meeting, on 14 December, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided, without a vote, to recommend to the General Assembly that agenda item 100 (d), entitled "Human rights questions: Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action", remain for consideration during the forty-ninth session, in order that the Working Group of the Third Committee may continue its work during the latter part of that session (see para. 15, draft decision II).

13. At the same meeting, the representative of Cuba made a statement (see A/C.3/49/SR.67).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

14. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 48/121 of 20 December 1993, in which it endorsed the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, 1/ adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993,

Reaffirming the view of the World Conference on Human Rights that the promotion and protection of human rights is a matter of priority for the international community,

Considering that the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms is one of the basic purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and one of the main priorities of the Organization,

Welcoming Commission on Human Rights resolution 1994/95 of 9 March 1994 on the World Conference on Human Rights, 2/ in which, inter alia, the Commission called upon all special representatives, special rapporteurs, independent experts and thematic working groups of the Commission to take fully into account the recommendations contained in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action within their respective mandates,

Recognizing the urgency of eliminating denials and violations of human rights, as expressed in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,

Convinced that the World Conference on Human Rights made an important contribution to the cause of human rights and that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action has to be translated into effective action by States, the competent United Nations organs and organizations and other organizations concerned, including non-governmental organizations,

Bearing in mind that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action provide the United Nations and the international community with a coherent framework of principles, objectives and means for promoting and protecting human rights,

---

1/ Report of the World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 14-25 June 1993 (A/CONF.157/24 (Part I)), chap. III.

2/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1994, Supplement No. 4 (E/1994/24), chap. II, sect. A.

Noting that the activities envisaged in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action add further to the workload and the responsibilities of the United Nations human rights system and that the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session took the initial steps towards bridging the gap between resources and the mandated outputs,

Recalling the request of the World Conference on Human Rights to the Secretary-General and the General Assembly to take immediate steps to increase substantially the resources for the human rights programme from within the existing and future regular budgets of the United Nations,

Taking note of the view of the Secretary-General, as expressed in his report, 3/ that a prompt endorsement of a detailed plan of implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, together with the related necessary financial decisions, could positively facilitate the achievement of the broad range of objectives in human rights set forth by the World Conference on Human Rights,

Noting that at the first regular session of 1994 of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, in April 1994, the executive heads of all United Nations agencies discussed the implications of the results of the Conference for their respective programmes and committed themselves to supporting the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the coordination of United Nations organs, bodies and the specialized agencies whose activities deal with human rights, as set out in General Assembly resolution 48/141,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the World Conference on Human Rights 4/ and the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 5/

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the World Conference on Human Rights 4/ and of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; 5/

2. Endorses the view of the Secretary-General 6/ that, if adequately implemented, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action will be a milestone in history, and that it requires concerted efforts on the part of Governments and national human rights institutions, international organizations, United Nations human rights bodies and non-governmental organizations;

3. Endorses the reaffirmation in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of the importance of the promotion of universal respect for, and

---

3/ A/49/668, para. 139.

4/ A/49/668.

5/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 36 (A/49/36).

6/ A/49/668, para. 134.

observance and protection of, all human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure as wide a distribution of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action as possible;

5. Urges all States to continue to give widespread publicity to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action in order to promote increased awareness of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

6. Calls upon all States to take further action with a view to the full realization of human rights in the light of the recommendations of the Conference;

7. Requests the Secretary-General, the General Assembly, the Commission on Human Rights and other organs and bodies of the United Nations system related to human rights to take further action with a view to the full implementation of all the recommendations of the Conference;

8. Reiterates the request of the Conference that immediate steps be taken to increase substantially the resources for the human rights programme from within the existing and future regular budgets of the United Nations;

9. Requests the High Commissioner for Human Rights, as the United Nations official with principal responsibility for United Nations human rights activities, to submit, no later than 15 February 1995 for the preparation of the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, a report with a detailed plan on the human and financial resource requirements of the implementation of the recommendations of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action that have been endorsed by the competent United Nations organs or on which those organs have taken decisions;

10. Also requests the High Commissioner to include in his annual report to the General Assembly a section on the measures taken and the progress achieved in the comprehensive implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

11. Decides to consider this question at its fiftieth session under the sub-item entitled "Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action".

* * *

15. The Third Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decisions:

DRAFT DECISION I

Increased coordination within the United Nations system in the field of human rights

The General Assembly decides to refer draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.36/Rev.1, entitled "Increased coordination within the United Nations system in the field of human rights" to the Working Group of the Third Committee for further consideration.

DRAFT DECISION II

Human rights questions: Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

The General Assembly decides that agenda item 100 (d), entitled "Human rights questions: Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action", remains for consideration during the forty-ninth session, in order that the Working Group of the Third Committee may continue its work during the latter part of that session.